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16. ABSTRACT

This staff paper evaluates and interprets the updated scientific and technical information that EPA staff believes is most relevant to the review of primary and secondary national ambient air quality standards for particulate matter (PM). This assessment is intended to bridge the gap between the scientific review in the 1996 criteria document and the judgements required of the Administrator in setting ambient air quality standards for PM. The major staff recommendations presented in the staff paper for consideration by the Administrator include: (1) the current PM standards should be revised in light of evidence showing effects in areas that attain current NAAQS; (2) PM_{10} remains an appropriate indicator, but the fine ($PM_{2.5}$)and coarse fractions of PM_{10} should be regulated separately; (3) two $PM_{2.5}$ standards should be established: a 24-hour standard with a more robust form and a level selected from a range of 20-65 $\mu g/m^3$, and an annual expected mean standard selected from a range of 12.5-20 $\mu g/m^3$; (4) consideration should be given to the use of spatial averaging across multiple monitors for $PM_{2.5}$ standards; (5) an annual PM_{10} standard should be retained for control of coarse fraction particles, alone or in combination with a 24-hour PM_{10} standard; (6) the level of the annual standard should be selected from a range of 40-50 $\mu g/m^3$; if a 24-hour standard is retained, the level should remain at 150 $\mu g/m^3$, but with a more robust form; and, (7) secondary standards for PM should be set equal to the primary standards to address soiling and nuisance; consideration should be given to addressing remaining visibility impairment issues through regional haze regulations.

17. KEY WORDS AND DOCUMENT ANALYSIS

a. DESCRIPTORS	b. IDENTIFIERS/OPEN ENDED TERMS	c. COSATI Field/Group
Particulate Matter PM Air Pollution Health Effects Welfare Effects Mortality Morbidity Exposure Assessment Risk Assessment	Air Quality Standards	

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